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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/804,815

03/18/2004

Su Chin Chang

M61.12-0606

7128

27366

7590

09/21/2006

WESTMAN CHAMPLIN (MICROSOFT CORPORATION)
SUITE 1400
900 SECOND AVENUE SOUTH
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-3319

EXAMINER

KINDRED, ALFORD W

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2163

DATE MAILED: 09/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/804,815

Applicant(s)

CHANG ET AL.

Examiner

Alford W. Kindred

Art Unit

2163

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 and 31-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 21-30 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 and 31-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/28/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: Application filed on 03/18/04.

Election/Restrictions

2. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-20 and 32-40, drawn to the processing data in a structured data source, classified in class 707, subclass 100.

- II. Claims 21-31, drawn to processing data in including dimension and values associated with the dimensions, classified in class 715, subclass 700The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

3. Inventions I and II are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct if they do not overlap in scope and are not obvious variants, and if it is shown that at least one subcombination is separately usable. In the instant case, subcombination of Invention I, has separate utility such as the processing of data stored in structured data source. Invention II, has separate such as the processing of data including dimensions and values. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

4. During a telephone conversation with Todd Fronek on 9/14/06 a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of I, claims 1-20 and 32-40. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 21-31 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Art Unit: 2163

5. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. Claims 1-20 and 32-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Elder, US# 20050043940.

As per claim 1, Elder teaches "receiving a natural language input; analyzing the natural language input to identify semantic information contained therein; associating portions of the natural language input with a command object and an entity object of a schema based on the semantic information and the natural language input" (see paragraph [0220] and [0252]) "rendering data from the data source in a table of columns and rows based on the schema, and the associated portions of the natural language input" (see paragraph [0061] and [0161]).

As per claim 2, Elder teaches "accessing the database to identify words and phrases associated with dimensions in the data source" (see paragraph [0023], [0029], and [0051]).

As per claim 3, Elder teaches "identifying words and phrases associated with levels and values in the data source" (see paragraph [0029] and [0034]).

As per claim 4, Elder teaches "wherein associating further comprises associating portions of the natural language input with a frame object of the schema, wherein the frame object corresponds to how to render data" (see paragraph [0023], [0061] and [0168]).

As per claim 5, Elder teaches "wherein the command object relates to a task to be performed for rendering data" (see paragraph [0220]).

As per claim 6, Elder teaches "wherein the entity object relates to data in the data source or to objects in the application" (see paragraph [0140] and [0142]).

As per claims 7-8, Elder teaches "changing the table based on a further command received" (see paragraph [0161] and [0236]).

As per claim 9, Elder teaches "wherein the further command is sorting a portion of the table" (see paragraph [0032] and [0161]).

As per claim 10, Elder teaches "wherein the further command is filtering information in the table" (see paragraph [0173] and [0211]).

As per claims 11-12, Elder teaches "wherein the further command is adding information to the table . . ." (see paragraph [0267] and [0277]).

As per claim 13, Elder teaches "wherein the further command includes switching

the row and column information" (see paragraph [0277] and [0281]).

As per claims 14-16, Elder teaches "presenting candidate interpretations based on the natural language input" (see paragraph [0236], [0271], and [0421]).

As per claim 17, Elder teaches "rendering a natural language description of information in the table" (see paragraph [0236]).

As per claim 18, Elder teaches "maintaining a history of previous tables rendered for future use" (see paragraph [0029] and [0281]).

As per claims 19-20, Elder teaches "associating portions of the natural language input with words and phrases associated with the data source . . ." (see paragraph [0220] and [0224]).

As per claims 32-40, these claims are rejected on grounds corresponding to the arguments given above for rejected claims 1-5 and 16 and are similarly rejected including the following:

--Elder teaches "wherein the application is a spreadsheet application" (see paragraph [0031]) "identifying a frame object . . . command object . . ." (see paragraph [0027] and [0090]).

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. US# 20030216919.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alford W. Kindred whose telephone number is 571-272-4037. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 9:00 am- 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don Wong can be reached on (571) 272-1834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Alford W. Kindred
Patent Examiner
Tech Ctr. 2100